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AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS

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ZONING CHANGES

Talks renewed about solar restrictions

Council discusses allowing solar farms on agricultural land

By Michael J. Ballway
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With developers reportedly interested in large-scale solar farm projects on "half a dozen" properties in town, the City Council this week returned to its discussion on how to regulate the projects.

The town's zoning code currently makes no reference to solar farms — fields with more than one acre of ground-mounted so-

lar energy panels — leading to confusion about where they are permitted. In May, the council came within one vote of passing a zoning ordinance that would have allowed solar farms in industrial zones only. Those who voted against the zoning change said such a narrow restriction would leave the town open to lawsuits.

The debate picked up right where it left off at a council workshop on July 10.

"If we say only industrial, it won't survive a court challenge because it's too restrictive," said City Councilor Christopher Johnson, echoing the points he had

made earlier this year.

He suggested, as he had earlier this year, that the town's zoning code also allow solar farms in agricultural zones, on a special permit basis.

"We've had this discussion ad nauseam," said City Councilor Robert Rossi. "This thing really isn't a complicated issue, but we make it one. The point of not putting it in agricultural [zones] is because can put residential property in agricultural, and so many residential areas are surrounded by agricultural."

Councilor Richard Theroux, who had proposed the industrial-only zoning earlier this year,

agreed with Rossi. He said he did not oppose solar energy, but wanted to make sure residents' home values were protected.

"It should be in the right areas," Theroux said. "It shouldn't be in the back yard of the biggest investment they make in their lives."

Councilor Paul Cavallo said the town should adopt the zoning it feels is appropriate, and worry about lawsuits only if and when they occur: "I don't think we should be pressured by any of these people coming in to town."

Rossi also said any special

SOLAR | page 6

PERRY LANE

CPA, gifts to pay for play area

Lions Club still fundraising for \$285K 'tot lot'

By Peter Spotts
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Lions Club fundraising for the Perry Lane Park playground continues to surpass expectations, but the lion's share of the cost is expected to be borne by the town's CPA fund.

The club has taken in \$22,000 for the "tot lot" project over the past year, more than double the initial goal of \$10,000. The total cost of renovating the playground will be about \$285,000, however.

Lions Club Secretary Dick Lanier said the club has been overwhelmed by the community support for the project.

"What really surprised us was probably 60 percent of the funds was straight-up donations, which we did not count on," Lanier said. "The level of community support for this project has been absolutely phenomenal. It's very gratifying. I'm confident we're going to exceed" \$25,000.

Lanier said the club is meeting this week to discuss its next fundraiser, but is also shifting some of its focus from fundraising events and toward grant applications. The club recently achieved 501c3 nonprofit recognition from the Internal Revenue Service, and can now receive tax-deductible donations from companies and businesses, as well as apply for grants from charitable foundations.

The work to be done includes replacing worn structures on the large play area, adding poured-in-place rubber surfacing, and

PLAYGROUND | page 6



The Bad News Jazz and Blues Orchestra played the opening night of SummerFest 2017, the town's weekly outdoor concert series, on July 5 at School Street Park. More photos, page 9. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY KATE ANDERSON

ATHLETIC MASCOT

School board votes to back Brownie logo

Local leaders oppose Senate bill to remove Native American imagery

By Mike Lydick
aan@turley.com

While legislators in Boston are considering a bill to prohibit Native American logos and team names in high school sports, the Agawam School Committee took its own vote last month.

The board agreed unanimously on

June 27 to adopt Agawam's familiar Native American chief's-head logo as the school district's official mascot. School Committee members Wendy Rua and Shelley Borgatti-Reed, who sponsored the resolution, said the image represents tradition, not disparagement.

"The Native American has always held a place of honor and been a source of pride" for the schools and the community, the resolution states.

The resolution was a reaction to Senate Bill 291, a proposed law being discussed on Beacon Hill. Following a pattern set by similar legislation in Oregon, Minnesota and Wisconsin,

it would ban any "name, symbol, or image that depicts or refers to an American Indian tribe, individual, custom or tradition that is used by a public school as a mascot, nickname, logo, letterhead or team name." Specific examples in the bill include "Indians," "Indianettes," "Chieftains" and "Braves."

Introduced earlier this year, the bill needs to clear several legislative hurdles before a vote in the state House and Senate could take place early next year. Supporters say Native American mascots are offensive and promote a

MASCOT | page 7



An image of a Native American chief in full headdress is used as a mascot and logo for Agawam schools and their sports teams, including on this banner outside the high school athletic office. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK



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Rollercoaster of love



Thomas Schiller and Ashley Marchetti tied the knot 200 feet above Agawam this Monday, July 10. The North Kingstown, R.I., couple were wed while riding the Superman ride at Six Flags New England. According to a park spokesman, the couple are frequent visitors to the park and love roller coasters. The Schiller wedding is not the first to be held at the theme park on Main Street, but was one of the largest. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Unwanted trash, recycling bins collected next week

Tracy DeMaio, environmental project coordinator for the town of Agawam, has announced that the DPW collect unwanted trash and recycling bins during the week of July 17-21. Containers should be left empty and upside down on residents' scheduled trash collection day.

Old trash barrels and blue recycling bins should no longer be used for the town's curbside trash pickup system. All residents should be using the brown wheeled carts

provided by the town last month.

DeMaio said residents are encouraged to find an alternate use for their former trash containers and recycling bins. Yard waste stickers are available at the Department of Public Works to identify trash containers being reused for yard waste collection in the fall. The DPW office is at 1000 Suffield St., Agawam, and is open during business hours on weekdays.

Infant massage class offered next week

The Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., will host Sheryl White of Baby Kneads at 11 a.m. Thursday, July 20, for a class on infant massage. This class is designed for infants to pre-walkers and their parents or caregivers and is free and open to all. To register, visit www.agawamlibrary.org or call 413-789-1550, ext. 3.

In a relaxing group setting, White will show participants how to massage, relax, and soothe their newborn to pre-crawling baby. All of the techniques will be demonstrated on a doll and caregivers will practice the strokes on their own baby during the class. In addition to learning how to massage a baby, there will be group discussions about topics that relate to situations that parents face every day. The class also includes relaxation techniques, inspirational readings and mindful music.

White is a certified infant massage instructor, baby signer, Reiki master and mother of three. She has a bachelor's degree in psychology and has been a corporate classroom trainer. She has received specialized training in the field of infant massage conducted by the International Association of Infant Massage. She is a member of the IAIM Association founded by Vimala Schneider McClure. She is a certified instructor of Joseph Garcia's International Sign 2 Me Presenters Network, a babies and toddlers signing program. She became interested in this work after enjoying her own experience using the art of nurturing touch and sign language with her own baby. She has been teaching classes to parents, teachers, professionals and caregivers since 1999. Her role in the classes is to facilitate and help strengthen the relationship between an infant and their caregiver.

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Emergency need for blood donors

The American Red Cross is facing a critical blood shortage and is issuing an emergency call for eligible blood and platelet donors of all blood types to give now and help save lives.

Blood donations have fallen short of expectations for the past two months, with about 61,000 fewer donations than needed and causing a significant depletion of the Red Cross blood supply. The shortfall is the equivalent of the Red Cross not collecting any blood donations for more than four days.

Two local businesses will hold blood drives in the coming weeks:

- 1-6 p.m. Wednesday, July 19, at OMG, 153 Bowles Road, Agawam.
- 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, July 22, at Goodwill Industries, 621 E. Main St., Westfield.

Donors of all blood types are needed. To make an appointment to give blood, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 800-733-2767. Donors are encouraged to make appointments and complete the RapidPass online health history questionnaire at redcrossblood.org/rapidpass to help reduce wait times.

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Together We Deliver a Higher State of Caring



The “End War” poster collection of activist Stephen Lewis is on display at the Agawam Public Library through July 28. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Library exhibiting ‘End War’ posters

Anti-war posters from several countries are on display this month at the Agawam Public Library.

The “End War” exhibit features selections from a collection of more than 6,600 posters owned by Stephen Lewis. He is a long-time activist in the labor movement and the former treasurer of his union.

Lewis believes this exhibit is important “... because every tax dollar spent by the U.S. government to wage war is one less dollar for education, improving highways, healthcare, converting to clean energy, jobs etc.” He said he is concerned that “jet fighters are being built that the Air Force doesn’t want; that hundreds of veterans are homeless; that the U.S. has troops stationed in at least 80 countries; that hundreds of civilians are being killed by our Air Force; and that the U.S. government has decided that we have the right to be the police force for the world.”

Lewis added, “a trail of money that leads to war is the arms trade. Some corpora-



tions make a big profit on everything from sidearms to ballistic missiles. The bigger the bang, the greater the profit.”

The posters and photos were contributed by friends, collected at conferences and visits to some of the organizations, and from connections made through the Internet. Lewis can be reached by email at lewisposters@gmail.com or on Facebook.com under “Labor/Progressive Political Posters.” This project is supported in part by a grant from the Agawam Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

The exhibit will run until July 28. The library, at 750 Cooper St., Agawam, welcomes visitors Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For information on displaying artwork at the library, contact Cher Collins, adult services librarian, at 413-789-1550, ext. 8851 or email ccollins@agawamlibrary.org.

Ex-officer cops plea, pays back union

Former Agawam Police Officer Gary Nardi Jr. will serve two years of probation after striking a deal to avoid a trial for embezzlement.

The state attorney general’s office agreed last week to accept a continuation without a finding in Nardi’s case after the former patrolman paid back \$15,946.23 that he had taken from the Agawam Police Patrolman’s Association, of which he was treasurer. If Nardi completes the two years without incident, the three larceny charges against him will be dropped. He had been scheduled for a jury trial before Judge Constance Sweeney in September.

According to Hampden Superior Court documents, Nardi and the state prosecutor agreed to the plea deal last Thursday, July 7. As part of the deal, Nardi agreed not to seek employment in law enforcement during the two-year probation period. Nardi, 46, is a resident of Ludlow.

Agawam Police Chief Eric Gillis said Nardi was dismissed from the police force in January of this year, shortly after his Dec. 30 indictment on three felony counts of

larceny over \$250. Nardi had been on paid administrative leave since May 2016, when the allegations first surfaced that he was abusing his position to steal patrolmen’s union funds.

The attorney general alleged that Nardi, who served as the union’s elected treasurer from 2011 to 2016, stole dues money by withdrawing cash at an ATM; paying his own bills with union funds; and writing checks to himself from the union’s bank account.

Court documents describe his \$15,946.23 repayment as a “full restitution.”

His case was prosecuted by Assistant Attorney General Elizabeth Vasiliades of the attorney general’s Criminal Bureau. The investigation was handled by Sallyann Nelligan, director of the attorney general’s Financial Investigations Division, and State Police assigned to the attorney general’s office.

Neither Gillis nor a spokesman for the attorney general’s office offered additional comment on the case.

Web river map answers question: ‘Is It Clean?’

The Connecticut River Conservancy, formerly Connecticut River Watershed Council, and 15 partners have launched the 2017 Connecticut River basin water sampling program.

Samples are taken at more than 140 sites along the river, including Pynchon Point in Agawam. The results are color-coded and plotted on a map.

“Cities and towns along the river are making significant investments to reduce pollution to our rivers and this has made a tremendous difference. We want people to be able to explore and enjoy this wonderful resource,” said CRC river steward Andrea Donlon. “Our rivers are certainly much cleaner than they used to be, but it makes sense for river users to pay attention to this information so they know when it’s clean for swimming or boating.”

Water samples are tested for E. coli bacteria as an indicator for all types of other pathogens that could potentially cause illness. River users can visit www.ConnecticutRiver.us/isitclean to find bacteria test results at river access and recreation sites in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and northern Connecticut, including several in the Springfield area. Samples are typically collected at each site weekly or bi-weekly and test results are posted online 24 hours later, through early October.

“The data tells us that it is a good idea to stay out of the water for 24-48 hours after a heavy rain because bacteria levels could be high,” noted CRC river steward Alicea Charanut. “Bacteria can spike after a storm due to combined sewer overflows and polluted stormwater runoff from urban, suburban, and agricultural areas.”

The site is also available in Spanish at www.ConnecticutRiver.us/estallimpio.

The water sampling project is now in its 10th year. Partner organizations include Connecticut River Conservancy, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, Southeastern Vermont Watershed Alliance, Putney Rowing Club, Black River Action Team, White River Partnership, Ottauquechee River Group, Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee, Greater Northfield Watershed



The “Is It Clean” website shows water sampling results from more than 100 locations along the Connecticut River, including in Agawam. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Association, Greenfield Health Department, Deerfield River Watershed Association, Millers River Watershed Council, Connecticut River Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Scantic River Watershed Association/University of Saint Joseph, Goodwin College, the Connecticut River Academy, and USGS. All of these organizations rely on trained volunteers to help with sampling. Every year, these organizations must apply for grants and request donations to keep their testing programs going. Those that find this information useful are encouraged to support their local watershed organization by becoming a member.

Track backer



Motocross fan Jeremy Musa of Agawam shows his support for Eli Tomac — who rides the No. 3 Kawasaki bike — at the Red Bull Southwick National on Saturday. He had a lot to cheer about, as Tomac won both races and increased his lead in the championship standings. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY

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Opinion

OUR VIEW

Entertainment al fresco

Now that we're all wired in to seemingly every possible entertainment option, 24 hours a day, is there a need for SummerFest, the free concert series at School Street Park, with its traffic and bugs and occasional rainstorm?

Yes, there is. For all of the little annoyances that attach to any mass gathering, the July and August SummerFest schedule remains a treasured community event in Agawam, and for good reason.

Anyone with a smartphone, or a laptop and an Internet connection, has instant access to more free music, on demand at any time, than a record store manager or music librarian 20 years ago.

So why show up for a Billy Joel tribute band concert on a Wednesday night at the park when any of us, at any hour of any day, can watch concert videos of the Piano Man himself, in the comfort of our own homes? Because there's something special about live music. There's something special about being present as the music is created, catching the little mistakes and improvisations that deviate from the "standard" version of the song, your applause and your voice adding a little bit to the energy that fuels and inspires the performers on stage.

And there's something special about live music outdoors in the summertime. Like barbecue and baseball, music is at its best under the open sky. Mom and Dad can set up chairs while the kids wander off to the playground during the slow songs. There's plenty of room to get up and dance. Surrounded by soft grass and fresh air, the music feels more like a part of nature. It's true at Tanglewood and it's true at Lollapalooza, and it's true here in Agawam, too.

Of course, SummerFest doesn't just fall out of the clear blue sky. There are dozens of volunteers and town employees figuratively standing behind that bandstand — or, in some cases, literally standing behind a hot dog grill, a raffle table or a police cruiser. Someone has to find, book and budget for the musical acts. Someone has to keep the grass trimmed and the stage clean. Several someones have to bring, cook and serve the food. Watching over the whole operation is Parks and Recreation Director Christopher Sparks.

The concerts maybe free to attend, but they do cost money. Sponsorships help, but some of the biggest costs are spread out among all property owners in town. Your tax dollars pay for the upkeep of the park and the police detail. Your tax dollars, through the Community Preservation Act surcharge, paid for the construction of the bandstand and pavilion.

It's money well spent, though. For a few hours every Wednesday night, Agawam has a place to come together and enjoy two of life's great, simple joys — two of the things that, separately, define "joy" to many of us — together as they should be: music and nature.

Tell us what you think. Send letters to the editor to aan@turley.com.

ELECTION LETTERS

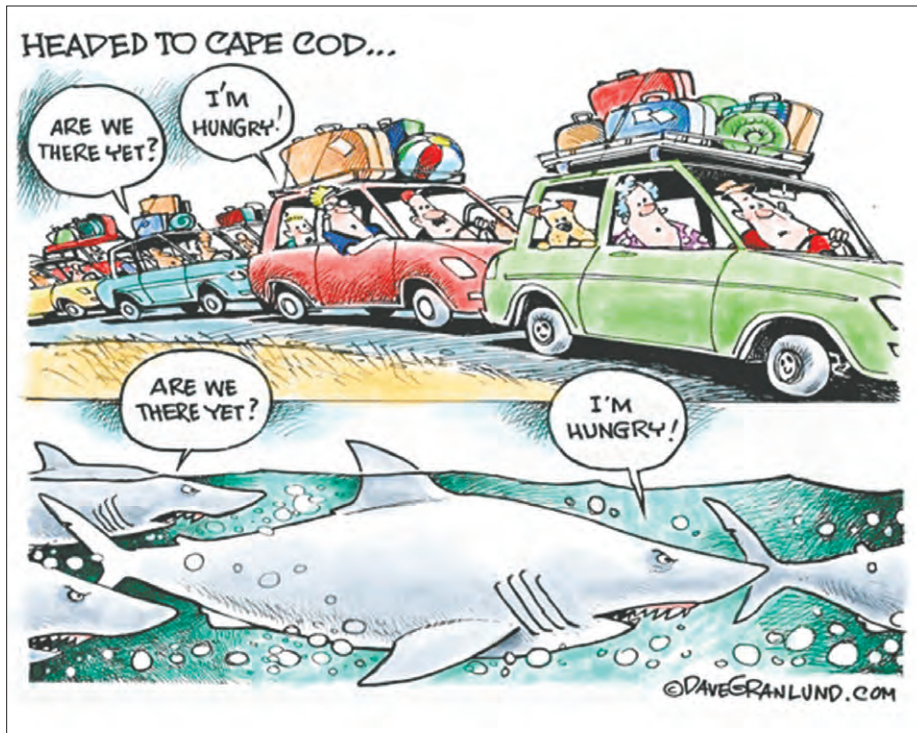
The Agawam Advertiser News welcomes readers to participate in this year's town election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing specific candidates or discussing local campaign issues should be sent to Agawam Advertiser News, care of Turley Publications, 380 Union St., W. Springfield, MA 01089, faxed to 413-786-8457 or emailed to aan@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last week before the election (editions of Oct. 5 for the preliminary election, Nov. 2 for the general election). For more information, call Michael Ballway or Teri Machia at 413-786-7747.

Candidate statements

Candidates for mayor, City Council and School Committee are welcome to send in an introductory statement to be printed in the Agawam Advertiser News. The statement should not exceed 250 words and should focus on the candidate's biography and beliefs — not on opponents or fundraising. Candidates are encouraged to include a photograph with their statements. Both the text and photograph can be emailed to aan@turley.com.

In the interest of fairness to all candidates, press releases about fundraisers or campaign events will not be printed. The newspaper will cover the campaign through staff-written stories and briefs about nominations, debates, controversies and political issues, and question-and-answer features, with all candidates invited to participate, as the election draws closer.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs, events and fundraising may contact John Baskin, 413-786-7747 or jbaskin@turley.com, about paid advertising in the Agawam Advertiser News.



YESTERDAY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

The Riverside Park neighborhood (part 1)

What are your memories of Riverside Park? The stock car races, the roller coaster, driving and crashing the bumper cars and the fun house are some of mine. Maybe you remember Lake Takadip or the drive-in movie theater.

The Riverside Park neighborhood for the Agawam Center boys started at Squazza's Service Station (now a window blind store) at 1443 Main St. They had a soda machine and a cold one was a real treat on a hot day. Sometimes we pedaled up the hill to Riverside. That was like going to a different state, kind of like into Connecticut.

Some Brownies grew up in the Riverside neighborhood. Ralph Zavarella '60 lived right across the street at 1702 Main St. Dominick Ricco '63 and Jean Brezinski '55 lived on nearby Woodcliff Avenue. How many Saturday nights do you think they heard the roar of the race cars? We heard them pretty well at Agawam Center a mile away, so how loud was it there? If you were in the grandstand watching, you had to shout to the person next to you. Buddy Krebs, Dick Dixon and Jocko Maggiacomo made a lot of noise.

An interesting study is to compare the 1955 Manning's Directory to what you see on a slow drive down Main Street. I started at the South Street intersection this morning, pretty early, so cars going by would have room to go around me. Twisty's is on the south corner now. In 1955, Charles R. Robinson had the whole corner and placed three ads in the '55 Sachem — one for Robinson's Grocery Store, one for fuel and range oil and one for Robinson's Service Station. Maybe there are underground gas tanks still there and a possible nightmare for any change of ownership. The '55 Manning's has a parking lot next heading south, and then Nondo's Drive Inn and another parking lot. My memory there is an A&W Root Beer with car hops. That would have been around 1964. Anyone who knows

more or worked there would help if they were to call. Who owned it? Who worked there?



Walt Willard

The next address heading south is 1664 with John Jasmanicki as the occupant. There is a building there now that used to be a bar. Six Flags must own it now.

The next address listed is 1696 for Meadow Brook Lunch. It must have been demolished. There is a building at 1688 that has the name Park Place barely visible under the new paint. Further south is Henshaw Avenue, which has no houses just like back in 1955. The next building is 1702, once the house of Art Zavarella. Ralph's father, Art, was a School Committee member for many years.

The next column will hopefully have some memories from Ralph Zavarella, the Dal Molin girls whose fathers owned Agawam Lumber, and Barbara (Tatro) O'Connor '65, who still lives right near the intersection of South and Main streets.

Janice Reynolds '60 this morning remembered a scoop of chocolate ice cream in her A&W mug.

Marilyn Pennat '60 inquired about how to nominate her brother Ronnie to the new Hall of Fame.

Walter Fogg '62 sent us this information about Audrey Willard. She went to Florida three years after her 1945 AHS graduation and worked down there as a stenographer and a bookkeeper. She was married to Clever Johnston for 22 years until they divorced. Audrey passed away in Florida in 1999, leaving no children.

As a person who forgets how to turn on our computer, I certainly am amazed at how computer literate our Walter Fogg is. Thanks, Walter Jr., from Walter Jr.

Walt Willard went to AHS and taught math there for 16 years. He can be reached at 413-786-7924. Call him. Walt loves your feedback and any and all information or tidbits you can offer.



Janice Reynolds ... according to the Sachem, "Jane," Lummer, one of the girls, "What a driver!" "Oh, look, a sailor!"



Ralph Zavarella ... "Zoove," quiet, pals with Lenny, sharp car.

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FAITH MATTERS

Regret – and how to lose it

I think all of us can relate to the subject of regret. We’ve all done things in our past that cause us to regret what we did. How do we live with ourselves?

Some people make light of it. There’s even a joke about regret. One woman put an ad in the newspaper classifieds — “Husband wanted.” The next day, she received 100 letters. They all said the same thing: “You can have mine.” They regretted being married. But really, regret is no laughing matter.

Regret usually starts with, “I wish. ...” I wish I spent more time with my family. I wish I didn’t say what I did. I wish I didn’t do what I did. I wish I traveled more. I wish I had more time. You fill in the blanks. Everybody has regrets. Frank Sinatra sang about it in the song “My Way,” when he said, “Regrets, I have a few, but then again, too few to mention.” He was lucky. Some people are filled with regret. But it has been said that regret is nothing more than unresolved guilt. If you take care of the guilt, you take care of the regret. So how do you take care of the guilt?

First, pray that God will clearly reveal your part in the matter. Maybe it really was your fault. Maybe there was sin involved — your sin; maybe not. Either way, “Take it to the lord in prayer,” as the words say in the old hymn, “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.”

If there is any way to make the situation better, do it. Regret usually involves situations you have some control over. What might you do now that could change the effect of the past? Remember, you can’t change the past itself. In 2 Corinthians 7:10 the Apostle Paul said, “Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and

leaves no regret. ...” The key word is repentance, which simply means turning around and going the other way. Resolve to never do or say whatever it is that caused you regret. Doing that takes away the power of regret over us. It relieves some of the guilt.



Pastor Ken Blanchard

It’s also important to forgive everybody involved in the situation, including yourself. Love God and love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus said, on these words hung all the law and the prophets. Christians pray the Lord’s Prayer — “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” God has forgiven us. Now is the time to forgive ourselves. God loves you. Jesus loves you.

Finally, trust God. Leave it in God’s loving hands. Another scripture written by the Apostle Paul (Romans 8:28) says, “We know that God works all things together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” If you love God and are called to follow his ways, if you repent and forgive yourself and others, God will work out everything that came before. That is a promise that helps us to remember God’s grace. It is all grace. It’s all gift. It’s all unmerited pardon. We didn’t do anything to earn the blessings God has given us. One of these blessings is God’s forgiveness. God loves us no matter what we did, no matter who we are or were. There is no room for regret. That’s God’s amazing grace. Amen.

Ken Blanchard is the pastor at Agawam United Methodist Church on Mill Street in Feeding Hills and Christ Church United Methodist in Southwick.

Letter to the Editor

Local senior won Ms. Massachusetts pageant

The Ms. Massachusetts Senior America Pageant was held on Sunday, May 21, at Holyoke High School. This was the 25th annual pageant for senior women over 60. Each year brings new excitement and friendships to the Age of Elegance. There is the search for a gracious lady who best exemplifies dignity, maturity and inner beauty. The pageant philosophy is based on the belief that seniors are the foundation of America.

We were fortunate to have a very talented group of contestants in the Class of 2017. We have been recognized by the mayor’s office in Springfield and other mayors’ offices in the state, and by the State House in Boston.

One of the most important aspects of the yearly pageant is for all judges to meet

each contestant individually. It is during this personal interview that the judges have an opportunity to select a woman whose charm, personality and conversational ability meet the ideals of Ms. Senior America.

Finalists were announced and the crowning of Ms. Massachusetts Senior America 2017 took place. The winner, Patricia A. Liquore, formerly of Springfield but now of Agawam, attended Springfield Community College, taking courses in cosmetology, and has been a hairdresser for 53 years, currently at Creative Edge in East Longmeadow.

Madeline Flanagan
Ms. Massachusetts Senior
Wilbraham

St. John’s Travelers to host trip to Lake George, N.Y.

St. John’s Travelers will host a three-day weekend tour at Lake George, N.Y. for the Adirondack Balloon Festival Sept. 22 to 24. The bus will depart from St. John’s Church, 833 Main St., Agawam. The cost is \$399 per person, double occupancy; \$389 per person, triple occupancy; and \$579 single occupancy. The package includes motor coach transportation, two nights at the lakefront Georgian Resort on Lake George, two breakfasts, a dinner show, a buffet cruise, the balloon festival, free time at the Lake George Village, baggage handling, and all taxes and meal gratuities.

A \$50 deposit is due at sign-up with the balance due no later than Aug. 15. Cancellation protection is available at sign-up for a fee of \$39. Checks may be made payable to St. John’s Travelers. For more information, call Emile Cote at 413-335-9440.



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GUTTERS

Jeep parade to aid Parish Cupboard pantry

WEST SPRINGFIELD — The first-ever Jeep Bright Lights Parade will benefit the Parish Cupboard on Tuesday, July 25.

Nearly 20 jeeps adorned with spectacular colored lights will depart from Mike’s Auto Service on River Street, West Springfield, at around 8:30 p.m. Moving at around 10 mph, the jeeps will caravan down Park Avenue and past American Legion Post 207, then down Main Street to their destination, the Parish Cupboard.

The Parish Cupboard is a food pantry and soup kitchen that serves residents of Agawam and West Springfield. The Jeep parade was originally conceived as a “Christmas in July” event to boost donations of non-perishable items to the Parish Cupboard during a time when food supplies run low.

“The original ‘Destination Jeep Night’ concept was that of Michael Zabik, owner of the River Street business,” said Roberta Page, president of the civic group It’s West Springfield. “When I contacted Michael Bertera of the Bertera Jeep dealership on Riverdale Street, Mike offered to be the premier sponsor. It coordinated with the new Jeep dealership location opening around the same time as the parade date.”

Both Mike’s Auto Service and Bertera Jeep are accepting donations of non-perishable food items. These items will be brought to the Parish Cupboard on the night of the 25th at the end of the parade, which should be by 9:30 p.m.

All are invited to watch the parade, anywhere along the route through downtown West Springfield. Those who watch at the American Legion post, at 83 Park Ave., West Springfield, will enjoy a band concert on the front lawn from 8:30 to 10 p.m., as well as lemonade. The first 50 spectators will receive a paper copy of the original Jeep doll. Jeep was a character in the “Popeye” comic strip that originated in the 1930s and continued in future animated cartoons. The only word the character said was “jeep.”

Page thanked the West Springfield Police Department for agreeing to support the parade and provide a cruiser escort.

The parade will be held rain or shine; the band will play indoors if the weather is inclement. For more information, contact It’s West Springfield at ItsWestSpringfield@gmail.com or 413-279-4567.

Regional Chamber tees off next Thursday

Crestview Country Club in Agawam will be the site of the 2017 Springfield Regional Chamber Golf Tournament on Thursday, July 20.

Registration and practice greens open at 11 a.m. A course-side lunch, sponsored by the MassMutual Center, will be served from 11 a.m. to noon, with a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. The day will conclude with a reception sponsored by Florence Bank, buffet dinner and awards ceremony.

Golfers will enjoy a scramble format, hole-in-one contests, longest drive and closest to the pin competitions; a putting contest sponsored by Columbia Gas of Massachusetts, and an opportunity to win from a wide selection of raffle prizes, including tickets, gift baskets and gift cards. Golfers will also have the chance to win the use of a fully stocked, “tricked out” golf cart for the tournament, complete with snacks, cigars, additional raffle tickets, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages and more.

Entries are \$600 per foursome for greens fees, cart, lunch, reception and souvenir photo. Individual golfers are welcome at \$150. Non-golfers may attend just the reception for \$30 per person. To register for the tournament, visit springfieldregionalchamber.com or contact Jessica Hill at hill@springfieldregionalchamber.com. For information on sponsorships, contact Jeff Lomma at lomma@springfieldregionalchamber.com or 413-755-1313.

DEATH NOTICES

Barlow, Phillip A.
Died July 5
Graveside service July 15
Curran-Jones Funeral Home
Agawam

Clarke, Romada E.
Died July 7
Funeral July 12
Agawam Funeral Home

Kida, Kathleen L.
Died July 2
Funeral July 11
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home
Agawam

ViVenzio, Patricia A.
Died June 27
Funeral July 7
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home
Agawam

Agawam Advertiser News

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

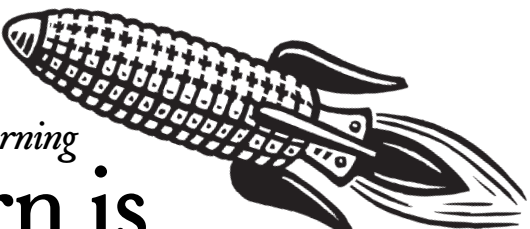
One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$75, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

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submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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Public Safety

FIRE LOG

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 148 EMS calls from June 27 to July 10, and the following emergency response calls.

On June 27 at 11:10 a.m., the department responded to Silver Street for passenger vehicle fire.

On June 27 at 12:11 p.m., the department responded to Losito Lane for service call, other.

On June 27 at 12:53 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for lockout.

On June 28 at 6:48 a.m., the department responded to Suffield Street with no incident found on arrival at dispatch address.

On June 28 at 12:21 p.m., the department responded to Leonard Street to assist invalid.

On June 28 at 3:25 p.m., the department responded to Cardinal Drive to assist invalid.

On June 28 at 5:05 p.m., the department responded to Suffield Street to assist invalid.

On June 28 at 5:42 p.m., the department responded to River Road for watercraft rescue.

On June 28 at 8:39 p.m., the department responded to Cottonwood Lane for smoke from barbecue, tar kettle.

On June 28 at 9:09 p.m., the department responded to Shoemaker Lane for outside rubbish fire, other.

On June 28 at 9:20 p.m., the department responded to Maynard Street for service call, other.

On June 29 at 11 a.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for off-road vehicle or heavy equipment fire.

On June 29 at 11:36 p.m., the department responded to South End Bridge Circle for motor vehicle accident with no injuries.

On June 29 at 6:40 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On June 29 at 11:55 p.m., the department responded to Maple Street for cooking fire, confined to container.

On June 30 at 10:30 a.m., the department responded to Meadowbrook Manor to assist invalid.

On July 1 at 8:44 p.m., the department responded to River Road for lockout.

On July 2 at 6:49 p.m., the department responded to Belden Court for electrical wiring / equipment problem, other.

On July 3 at 5:11 a.m., the department responded to William Street for public service.

On July 3 at 9:01 a.m., the department responded to High Street for gas leak (natural gas or LPG).

On July 3 at 10:41 a.m., the department responded to Regency Park Drive for public service.

On July 3 at 5:28 p.m., the department responded to Castle Hills Road for service call, other.

On July 4 at 5:12 p.m., the department responded to Route 57 West for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On July 4 at 9:38 p.m., the department responded to Route 5 North for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On July 5 at 8:48 a.m., the department responded to North Westfield Street for public service.

On July 5 at 10:45 a.m., the department responded to Main Street for service call, other.

On July 5 at 4:48 p.m., the department responded to Riviera Drive for public service.

On July 5 at 7:47 p.m., the department responded to North Street Ext. for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On July 5 at 9:38 p.m., the department responded to North Street for outside rubbish, trash or waste fire.

On July 6 at 9:03 a.m., the department responded to Regency Park Drive to assist invalid.

On July 7 at 11:13 a.m., the department responded to Silver Lake Drive for smoke scare, odor of smoke.

On July 6 at 3:09 p.m., the department responded to North Street for unauthorized burning.

On July 7 at 7:42 a.m., the department responded to Elm Street for motor vehicle accident with no injuries.

On July 8 at 10:22 a.m., the department responded to Leonard Street for public service assistance, other.

On July 8 at 4:07 p.m., the department responded to Paul Revere Drive for service call, other.

On July 8 at 6:09 p.m., the department responded to Maple Street for lockout.

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 463 calls for service from July 3 to July 10. The department recorded five arrests in its public log.

Tuesday, July 4

Joseph J. Sparveri III, 32, of Springfield Street, Feed-ing Hills was arrested and charged with two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon.

Thursday, July 6

Ronald Wright Jr., 26, of New Bridge Street, West Springfield, was arrested and charged with possession of heroin.

Friday, July 7

Richard Ralph Lind, 48, of Field Street, West Spring-field, was arrested on a default warrant.

Saturday, July 8

Alex S. Hebert, 24, of Cottage Street, Leominster, was arrested on a default warrant.

Monday, July 10

Jacqueline Rae Vanburen, 33, of Elm Street, West Springfield, was arrested and charged with driving un-der the influence of liquor and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

SOLAR ■ from page 1

permit process be “arbitrary” and open to abuse, with the standards for receiving a permit varying along with the composition of the permit-granting board.

He said the town is obligated only to provide a zone in which solar farms are allowed — not to provide a zone that has sufficient empty or available land for new developments.

“The law does not say we have to accom-modate these people,” he said.

Richard Maggi, a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, told the council that if it believes the current industrial zone is too restrictive, councilors have the authority to rezone parts of the town from agricultural to industrial. If they limit the rezoning to agricultural lands that are far away from residential zones, they can accomplish the goal of providing solar developers with more options, but without a repeat of the community opposition that Eversource met when it tried, earlier this year, to build a 20-acre solar farm across the street from houses on Kosak Court.

In the same vein, Councilor Gina Letell-ier suggested an overlay zoning district for solar panels, which again could include ag-ricultural or commercial land that doesn’t abut residential neighborhoods, while leav-ing agricultural land near houses off-limits.

The council did not reach a consensus this week, but agreed to refer the matter to its Legislative Subcommittee and include Planning Board and ZBA members in its deliberations. A zoning code change would require eight “yes” votes to pass.

According to Councilor Joseph Mineo, the mayor has heard of “half a dozen” po-tential large-scale solar projects eyeing land in Agawam now. One of those pro-posed solar farms involves land on Shoe-maker Lane; the landowner is asking for a zoning change from agricultural to indus-trial. That zoning change will be discussed at a Sept. 5 public hearing.

Letellier said in addition to working on a new zoning ordinance, the council should adopt a temporary moratorium on all solar projects as an emergency measure at its August meeting.



In an August 2016 photo, Dick Lanier and Cheryl Terramagra, from the Agawam Lions Club, stand with some of the outdated playground equipment that they hope to replace at Perry Lane Park. FILE PHOTO

PLAYGROUND ■ from page 1

completely replacing the small play area to create a “tot lot” playground for two- to five-year-old children, while making every-thing more handicap accessible.

“The equipment that’s there is 17 years old and it’s not age-appropriate,” said Christopher Sparks, director of Parks and Recreation. “The biggest reason we’re replacing the small playground is be-cause it isn’t age-ap-propriate for two to five years old. The large playground is going to be com-pletely refurbished, updated, fixed, mod-ernized, and all the worn pieces are be-ing replaced.”

Previously, all town playgrounds used wood chips as their surfacing. Sparks said he has been slowly changing to a rubber surface because it a better product over-all, requiring less maintenance and being more in line with ADA standards.

“Throughout town, all of our play-grounds have been converted to poured-in-place rubber surfacing,” he said. “We have three playgrounds left — Perry Lane, a small playground at Borgatti [Field] and a small playground at the Maynard Street Pool. So after this playground is done, we will be down to two small playgrounds that we hope to get done in the next couple years, and then all our playgrounds will be 100 percent poured-in-place place rubber

surfacing.”

First he needs the funding. Sparks said in addition to the \$25,000 he expects the Lions Club to contribute, another \$25,000 will come from the town’s annual gift pay-ment from Berkshire Power, and \$45,000 will come from the Perry Lane summer camp revenues.

The City Coun-cil is being asked to approve Commu-nity Preservation Act funds for the remaining \$190,000. The council received its request from the CPA Committee at its July 10 meeting, and is expected to vote on the funding

at its meeting in August.

The CPA is a separate account funded by a 1 percent surcharge on property tax bills in Agawam, and annual matching grants from the state government.

Sparks said he won’t have a timeline for when construction may begin until he gets approval from the council to proceed.

“I will have to work with the supplier to see how long it will take them to build and ship our products to us. Once the project is finally approved I’ll work with my sales representative to order the playground and get an estimated delivery date. I’m in com-plete limbo until I place the order and they tell me what the shipping date will be,” he explained.

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CLUES ACROSS
1. ___ fi (slang)
4. Former CIA
7. Parts per billion (abbr.)
10. Fermenting vat
11. News organization
12. Paddle
13. Agent in alchemy
15. Small amount
16. Wholeness
19. Suppliers
21. Type of head pain
23. Canadian province
24. Jiminy is one
25. Shelf
26. Diarist Frank
27. Honored
30. Boat race
34. Cash machine
35. Linguistic theory (abbr.)

36. Highway material
41. Gracefully slender
45. Not often found
46. Baghdad is its capital
47. Deriving from Asia
50. Large, veterinary pills
54. Boxer
55. Give the right to
56. Iranian city
57. Body part
59. A citizen of Iraq
60. Australian bird
61. Consume
62. A basketball hoop has one
63. Bar bill
64. Not wet
65. Midway between east and southeast

CLUES DOWN
1. Shorttail weasel
2. Type of sword
3. A way to acquire
4. Peddled more
5. Relaxing place
6. A small carrier attached to the side of a motorcycle
7. Decanting
8. For all ills or diseases
9. Building material
13. “Much ___ About Nothing”
14. Type of Buddhism
17. Refers to something unique
18. Thus far
20. Make angry
22. Greek mythological character
27. Used on driveways
28. Relating to the ears
29. Doctors’ group
31. Chinese philosophical principle
32. Stomach
33. A particular period
37. Coin of ancient Greece
38. Place to clean oneself
39. One of the Great Lakes
40. Ruled
41. State of being free
42. Fe
43. Soup cracker
44. Escorts
47. Credit term
48. Institute legal proceedings against
49. Put within
51. New Jersey is one
52. Red deer
53. Type of whale
58. Swiss river

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MASCOT ■ from page 1

negative stereotype of minorities.

The “Brownies” nickname, however, might not be affected by the ban. AHS Athletic Director Dave Stratton stated several years ago that the nickname derives from the school colors of brown and orange. The athletic mascot derives from the Native Americans who lived in Agawam before it was settled by Europeans in the 1600s. The town was named after a local tribe; its seal depicts a farmer and a Native American.

Another potential impact of the bill would be the renaming of the Agawam High School band, currently known as the Marching Mohawks.

‘Political correctness’

Borgatti-Reed and Rua said Agawam should “continue its tradition based on its Indian founders.” In written testimony submitted for a June 6 public hearing conducted by the Legislature’s education committee, they said Agawam’s Native American mascot “proudly displays our heritage, not denigrates it.”

Additionally, they said it would be “a tremendous disservice to the Native American to remove something with such historical significance. Political correctness should not change history.”

Rua added that her opposing Senate Bill 291 would “preserve and protect the pride and the history” of Agawam’s mascot, but is also about asserting local control over how a community represents itself.

“Local communities should be given authority to maintain their traditions without government interference,” added Rua, a regional vice chairman for the Massachusetts Association of School Committees. “We’re focused on sending a message to Boston: It’s our town, our history, our traditions. We want to keep local governance over lo-

cal issues.”

Borgatti-Reed, vice chairman of the School Committee, agrees with Rua about keeping local control. She added that if the bill passes, it not only would be “sad for Agawam,” but it would be costly to remove the chief’s-head logo from school apparel and buildings, including the new scoreboard on the recently renovated high school athletic field.

School Superintendent Steve Lemanski, the former AHS principal, said the cost of changing the mascot can’t be measured only in dollars.

“There are concerns about how a change in tradition would affect morale of students,” he said.

Borgatti-Reed, who feels “very strongly” about keeping the current mascot, said she hasn’t spoken to one parent or teacher who agrees with Senate Bill 291.

“Most are proud of our American Native heritage,” she added. Calling Agawam “a very tight community,” Borgatti-Reed said she sees Agawam “bucking the trend” to replace Native American mascots. “The Native American is a big part of our culture that carries on through our schools.”

Rua also said she’s heard residents talk about the mascot issue.

“Overwhelmingly, they feel our mascot represents the pride and the history of our town,” Rua said. “Agawam has embraced its heritage and honored it with our town name, town seal, and team names and mascots.”

Legislators opposed

State Sen. Barbara L’Italien, D-Andover, filed Senate Bill 291 at the request of constituents in Tewksbury who were upset after their School Committee voted not to change a Native American mascot. L’Italien has said that she personally believes mas-



If a bill being considered by the state Legislature is passed, Agawam may have to remove all depictions of Native Americans from its sports facilities, including the new scoreboard at Harmon Smith Field. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

cot issues should be decided at the local level, but introduced the bill so that legislators could hear constituents’ concerns.

Agawam’s state legislators, Sen. Donald Humason, R-Westfield, and Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, R-Southwick, also said school mascots should be a local issue, and oppose the bill.

Humason, writing to the education committee chair, said he shares the bill’s goal — preventing misrepresentation of Native American culture in public schools — but disagrees that the state knows better than local school boards about how to represent their community’s history and culture.

“This legislation would remove ability for the residents and elected officials of a community to determine how they want to honor their history,” he wrote. “All too often

the state issues mandates without considering the particulars of the local communities that would be affected. I believe that the local school boards are best suited to decide how to respect their local heritage.”

Boldyga, who praised Borgatti-Reed and Rua for their leadership, added, “We should preserve our heritage and our history and pass that knowledge on to our children and grandchildren.”

Since Borgatti-Reed and Rua were unable to attend the hearing on Senate Bill 291, they plan to meet with the education committee chairman in September, and invite residents to join them. They also encourage residents to send letters or emails to legislators opposing the bill.

Staff writer Abigail Albair contributed to this report.

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Youth

Check it out: Friday movies continue

The Summer Reading Program runs through Aug. 4 in the Children's Room at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., Agawam. The theme of this year's program is "Build a Better World." The library will host events for all ages and reading contests for newborns to grade 4, grades 5-8, and grades 9-12. There will be weekly raffle drawings and a grand prize drawing at the end of the program. After 25 days of reading, all participants will be eligible to earn a certificate and a book of their choice.

The library is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fridays, and closed on weekends and holidays. The library can be reached at 413-789-1550. More information is also available at agawamlibrary.org/children and agawamlibrary.org/teens.

Unless otherwise noted, special events require advance registration. Events coming up in the next week include:

Friday, July 14: Movie screening, 3-5 p.m. Watch "Moana" (2016) on the big

screen. Popcorn will be served; registration is not required.

Monday, July 17: (Incr)edible Architecture: Building with Food (entering grades 3-4), 6-7 p.m. Learn about engineering and build things using food.

Wednesday, July 19: Bingo (grades K-2), 2:30-3:30 p.m. Join a lively, fun-filled game of Bingo, with prizes.

Thursday, July 20: Baby Massage (newborns to pre-crawlers), 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This one-time introductory workshop will teach how to massage, relax, and soothe a newborn-to-pre-crawling baby. All of the techniques will be demonstrated on a doll; caregivers can practice the strokes on their own babies during the class.

Thursday, July 20: Cookies and Canvas (grades 5-8), 6-7:30 p.m. Paint a fun summer scene. All materials will be provided.

Friday, July 21: Movie screening, 3-5 p.m. Watch "The Lorax" (2012) on the big screen. Popcorn will be served; registration is not required.

Young actors present 'Storybook High' at the Red Door

The Red Door Theatre has started its 26th season of eight weeks of young people's theater. Three of the productions are showcases of a short musical play that children ages 5-9 rehearse during their week at the playhouse at 152 S. Westfield St., Feeding Hills.

This weekend begins the 8- to 15 year-old presentation of a new play by Marilene Allen of Agawam. "The Perils of Storybook High" revolves around the problems of going to a high school where classic fairytale

and horror creatures are running rampant through the school trying to solve the mystery that is causing characters to do things they wouldn't normally do — if they normally did anything.

The show runs July 14, 15 and 16. All tickets are \$9 and may be reserved by calling the box office at 413-789-2026. For more information on this and the rest of the summer season, visit www.reddoortheatre.com.

Teen CPR, AED course is Monday

Bethany Assembly of God, 580 Main St., Agawam, will hold an American Heart Association CPR and AED course on Monday, July 17, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The fee for this class, which could be useful to those involved with childcare, camp staff or working on accreditation for a specific organization, is \$30. This class is specifically for teenagers. To register, call Bethany at 413-789-2930.

CAMPUS NOTES

Roger Williams University: Joshua Jacques and Allison Weiner, of Feeding Hills, graduated at ceremonies held in May.

Simmons College: Samantha LaPlante, of Feeding Hills, was named to the spring semester dean's list.

Trinity College: Caleb Ladizki, of Agawam; and Patrick Kane, of Feeding Hills, graduated at ceremonies held May 21.

UMass Amherst: Darian Barlow, David Cotrone, Salah Elbakri, Abigail Garne, Kaeli Howard, Christa Hurley, Sarah Landry, Todd Maniscalchi, Stephen Mateus, Jesse Near, Carolyn Palmer, Vincent Panuccio, Timothy Regnier, Nathan Riley, Jennifer Rossi, Ashley Webster and Philip Woods, of Agawam; and Victoria Abramchuk, Ryan Barrington, Joseph Bortolussi, Rachel Burton, Sophia Dimartino, Jacqueline Donahue, Lauren Gage, Allison Grubbs, Alexander Gut, Heather King, Rachel Lloyd, Cullen McLarty, Margaret Mendoza, Christie Mirski, John Passerini, Michael Pfau, Jessica Raymond, Allison Schwarz, Nicholas Scuderi and Elain Tang, of Feeding Hills, were named to the spring semester dean's list.

Campus Notes are compiled from school press releases and parent submissions. To share your student achievement news, ask your school's press office to send an email to aan@turley.com.

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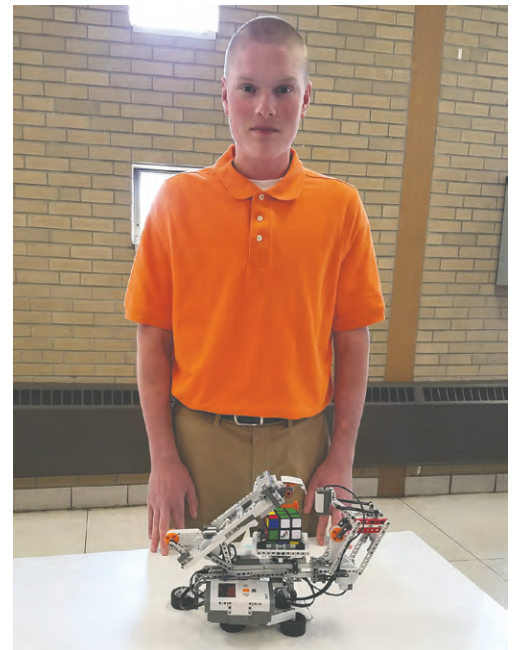
Doering, Jr. High compete at Rubik's tourney

Roberta Doering School held a Rubik's cube competition recently with four teams competing from Agawam Junior High School and Doering School. Teams had to solve 25 Rubik's cubes as fast as possible.

The Pink Ninjas from Doering School took first place in Division 1 (7:39). The Cube Warriors from AJHS took first place in Division D (4:08). Doering teams S'kibur (4:10) and Aer Lingus (4:22) took second and third place, respectively.

The students also competed solo, solving one cube as fast as possible. A.K. Liporada from Agawam Junior High took first place, solving a cube in 22.818 seconds, followed by Sam Morse from Doering, who solved one in 25.736 seconds.

Agawam High School freshman Bobby Taylor also demonstrated his robot that solves the Rubik's cube at the competition.



Agawam High School student Bobby Taylor displayed his robot that solves the Rubik's cube at the competition held recently at Roberta Doering School.



Members the Pink Ninjas from Roberta Doering School — Miles Shepard, Gabe Ruba, Shane Typrovicz, Nick Finley, Dmitriy Shapovalov, Evan Fogue, Matthew Krause and Quinn Miller — are all smiles after winning their division at the Rubik's cube tournament.



Doering School Aer Lingus team members at the Rubik's cube competition pose with their coach, Ron Sheehan. They are Anthony Virella, Colin La, Kaden Sheehan, Kristofer Rusiecki, Jacob Boutin, Josh Kipp, Isaac Diaz and Jason Kendall.



Doering School's Team S'kibur — Vinny Rodier, Coleman Bradlee, Grace Frasier, Megan Ball, Sam Morse, Zach Hurley, Jordan Stack and Cameron Gillis — is pictured with its coach, Marie Ball.

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In spite of the heat on July 5, dozens of families brought blankets and lawn chairs to listen to the Bad News Jazz and Blues Orchestra at the free outdoor concert. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY KATE ANDERSON

Park sounds



Agawam Cultural Council member Walter Mantani ties a balloon to the sleeve of Madelyn Cournoyer, 2, of Agawam, during last week's SummerFest concert at School Street Park.



Tina Dunham and Jane Eitel man the Agawam Cultural Council raffle table at the kickoff concert of the 2017 SummerFest season.



The Bad News Jazz and Blues Orchestra performs in the Darcy Davis Jr. Band Shell at School Street Park. The next two concerts are Satinwood, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 19, and Storm Front, a Billy Joel tribute, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 26.

Fitness event benefits EvvGirl

On May 20, NEXT Fitness on Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, hosted a Crossfit challenge fundraiser to benefit the EvvGirl Foundation's Seize the Keys drunk and distracted driving awareness program. The challenge was organized by Heather Bussiere. Nicky's Pizza provided a pizza afterwards.

The EvvGirl Foundation was founded in

2013 by the parents of Evan Bard, an Agawam native killed in a car crash in which the driver had been drinking and was at nearly three times the legal limit. The foundation promotes Seize the Keys and raises money for neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) cameras that allow families to watch their premature babies in hospitals from the comfort of their homes.



Evan Bard's parents, Todd and Barbara Bard, also participated in the challenge.



Heather Bussiere, back row at right, organized the Crossfit challenge. She is pictured holding Lily Jurasz and with her daughter Emiley Bussiere-Sykes, back row at left. In the front row are Teagan Babbins and Alexa Bussiere-Sykes. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Scott Urban and Mike Sacamoni participated in the challenge. They were Evan Bard's classmates and coworkers at the town's Perry Lane summer camp.

SPORTS

BASEBALL

Agawam tops Belchertown in finals

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN - “Glory Days” by Bruce Springsteen was one of the songs played over the loudspeaker at beautiful Hulmes-Warner Mini Fenway Park following the District 2 championship game between the Agawam and Belchertown 9/10 year old All-Star baseball teams.

It was certainly a glory day for the Agawam All-Stars, who captured the District title for the first

time ever at this age level, with a 16-8 victory over Belchertown before a large crowd, last Sunday afternoon.

The majority of the Agawam players were also members of last year’s 7/9 year old All-Star team, which also defeated Belchertown in the Districts finals.

“At the beginning of the All-Star tournament, all of these kids were individual baseball players, but they quickly jelled and we became one big team,” said Agawam manager David Gallerani. “It just

feels great to win the championship game against a very good Belchertown team.”

The 13 members of the Agawam championship baseball team, which is schedule to play their first sectional tournament game on Friday, are Landon Ashford, Cole Buffum, Vinny Catellotti, Nick Cecchi, Anthony DePalma, Jonah Higby, Owen Lavelle, Vinny Montagna, Michael Natale, Brady Paul, Aidan Pisano, Adam Ross, and Nate Ukrainets.

“I just love coaching all of these

kids,” Gallerani added. “Anytime that your team wins a ballgame its special, but winning a championship game is extra special.”

Pisano, who was Agawam’s starting pitcher, was the winning pitcher in the championship game. The right-hander hurled the first 3 2-3 innings before reaching the 75-pitch limit. He allowed six runs on five base hits. Ukrainets, who’s also a righty, allowed two runs over the final 2 1-3 innings.

Agawam advanced into the

District Finals following a 17-2 semifinal win over Southampton, which was played at Contant Park in Southampton, last Friday night. Eight days earlier, Southampton defeated Agawam 15-5, which was the only setback in their five pool games.

It was a disappointing loss for the Belchertown All-Stars, who entered the championship game with a perfect record for the second consecutive year.

“We’ve lost in the champion-

FINALS | page 11

BASEBALL

Three-run rally lifts Agawam Legion over East Longmeadow

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – A three-run rally in the sixth inning help the Agawam American Legion Post 185 baseball team get past host East Longmeadow 8-7 last Thursday night at East Longmeadow High School.

Agawam was trailing 6-4 in the top of the sixth inning when the Brownies put some hits together, along with some good baserunning to take the lead.

It started near the bottom of the order

with Tym Regnier. He singled to left on the ground between short and third. He would be erased on a fielder’s choice, making Ed-die Martinez the runner at first base.

Steven Grasso delivered a big blow, sending what seemed like a single down the left field line, but both runners were hustling all the way, as Grasso stretched the hit into a double to put runners on second and third with one out.

Austin Sabadosa would bloop the ball

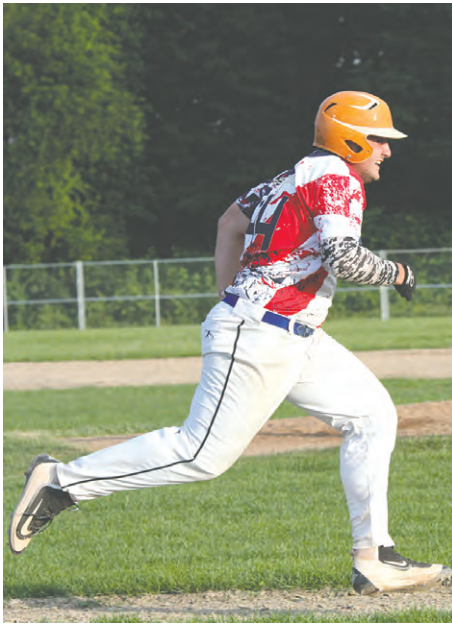
LEGION | page 11



Matt O’Keefe fouls a ball off while at bat. PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

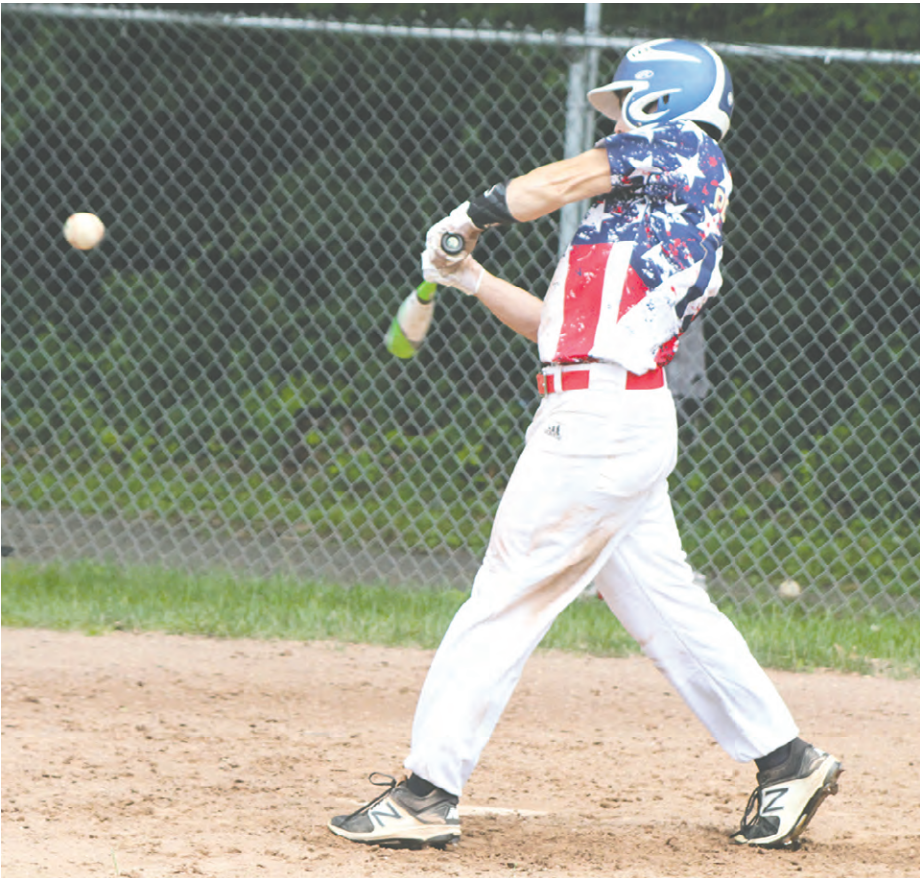


Pitcher Thomas Grenier would get a save with two good innings of relief in Agawam’s come-from-behind win over East Longmeadow last Thursday night.



Kian O’Keefe sprints for first base after singling down the left field line.

BASEBALL



Matt Long swings on connects on a pitch. PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Junior Legion comes back to defeat visiting Wilbraham

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – Despite trailing 6-4 in the fourth inning, Agawam’s American Legion Post 185 Junior baseball team was able to come back and post a 12-6 win over Wilbraham at St. John’s Field in Agawam.

The game almost did not happen as the School Street Park was found to be flooded about 10 minutes to game-time due to thunderstorms, but the teams and umpires were able to re-locate to nearby St. John’s in order to get the game in.

Izzo said he was pleased everything worked out because of the need to get all games in before the playoffs are scheduled to start earlier this week.

Wilbraham’s big inning came in the top of the fourth inning, when the Falcons would strike for four runs. It started with the pitching, Adam Zebian. He would reach base on a walk to get the inning going.

Back at the top of the order, Sam Dowding also walked. Anthony Izzo and Joe Manning would both get hits to drive in runs, and groundouts would push two

more runs across to make it 6-4.

But things went downhill for Wilbraham in the fifth inning as Agawam struck for a few runs, including a home run off Zebian take a 7-6 lead.

Agawam would add on to the lead in the sixth, taking advantage of the lack of numbers and inexperienced players Wilbraham had.

“It’s a really tough thing when you have the two senior legion teams and then try to also field a junior legion team as well,” said Wilbraham coach Darren Izzo. “It can be a little difficult because many of these players have not played at the high school level.”

American Legion baseball has been played for years, typically with varsity level players taking part in the summer league following the high school season. But a few years back, a Junior Legion league was started, with several teams coming out with their junior varsity talent to keep that group continuing to play.

Agawam closed out its regular season

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Sports

LEGION ■ from page 10

behind second base, landing between fielders to make it 6-5.

Joe Oliver would ground out to second to plate the next run, tying the score 6-6.

With a Sabadosa at second base with two outs, Kian O’Keefe got the tying run across to the plate with a ground single down the left field line to make it 7-6 Agawam.

Thomas Grenier would enter the game for the Brownies in relief of Kevin Lecuyer. He got into a bit of trouble thanks to an error, but got a 4-3 double play to empty the bases. After a flyout, the game went to the seventh.

In that inning, Agawam’s Collin Pelchat made a heads-up play to generate an insurance run that would end up really being needed. Pelchat first doubled down the right field line. Then, with Nick Kavarkis at

bat, the East Longmeadow catcher would overthrow the pitcher on a throw back to the mound. Pelchat alertly headed for third base. In the scramble to get the runner out, the East Longmeadow second baseman overthrew third base, and Pelchat was awarded home on the error to make it 8-6.

The run would be key as East Longmeadow generated a run with in the bottom of the seventh before Grenier got the final out to close the game.

Following the weekend’s games, Agawam would finish the regular season with an 8-10 record. Post 185 was scheduled to open up the playoffs earlier this week, with a double elimination format in District 2 and 3 to determine who moves on to the state American Legion playoffs.

All Senior Legion teams qualify for the playoffs, though West Springfield forfeited their season and will not participate.



Shortstop Joe Oliver cleanly fields a grounder in the sixth inning. PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Eddie Martinez jumps off first base while making a secondary lead.

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WMA hosting field hockey clinic

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham & Monson Academy Field Hockey team will host two camps at the school’s turf in August.

Academy International Field Hockey will hold a camp Aug. 14 to 18 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The event is open to players entering high school at WMA and Minnechaug Regional, as well as players from Wilbraham and Hampden who are entering grades 7-8. The camp will be coached by former Euro-

pean players. The fee is \$245.

The following week, WMA Coach Bill Wells will host the Wilbraham & Monson Academy Middle School Field Hockey Boot Camp Aug. 22 to 24 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Players entering grades 5 to 8 from throughout the region are welcome to attend. The fee is \$30.

For more information, email Coach Wells at bwells@wma.us.

Spec Pond summer basketball underway

By Nate Rosenthal
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - Summer basketball at Spec Pond begins anew this week. Over the next seven weeks, the asphalt courts will be buzzing with action, culminating in a week of championship games in the middle of August. Once again Ryan Litz of the Wilbraham Park and Recreation Department will oversee the league. He has been at the helm for 17 years.

This year there are 45 teams from eight age divisions four girls and four boys. There will be a change this season, as there will be no high school divisions. In 2016, there were no boys high school, but this time around there will be no girls high school girls either. And according to Litz, that is okay. “When there were 65 teams playing,” he said, “things got a bit unwieldy. Now we appear to be getting back to our roots and it should much easier to handle.”

The divisions are quite balanced, with

nine 5th/6th grade boys teams and 12 girls squads. In the 7th/8th grade groups, it is 13 boys and 11 girls. Each team will play a 10-game regular season schedule and all teams will make the playoffs. In the middle of the season is an all-star game. Teams from Wilbraham-Hampden lead the way with eight and Belchertown is next with six. Central Mass is represented with teams from Sturbridge.

Once the action picks up later in June, there will be three games each night, 5 p.m. 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. every Monday through Friday. Both courts will be busy. As always, local high school students will man the tables as scorekeepers. The league will use the best officials in the area, several of whom cover the high schools.

As the summer progresses, the crowds should pick and of course there will be a lot of on-lookers for the playoffs.

The schedules can be found on <http://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=specpond>

FINALS ■ from page 10

ship game the past two years, but these kids just kept battling back the whole game,” said Belchertown manager Todd McDonald. “It’s very disappointing, but Agawam played very well and they just kept putting the ball in play. I don’t think either team made very many errors in the game.”

The 12 Belchertown All-Star players are Colin Holt, Ian McDonald, Joey Jordan, Ryan Gould, Josh Misiaszek, Will Vachet, Jake Waller, Evan Ferguson, Evan Perkins, Noah Les, Charlie Fijal and Cooper Ferguson.

Misiaszek was Belchertown’s starting pitcher. The right-hander worked the first four innings before reaching the pitch limit. Waller, who’s also a righty, finished the game on the mound.

Belchertown, who lost to Easthamp-ton by a run in the District championship game last July, defeated Longmeadow, 10-5, in this year’s semifinals, which was held at Mini Fenway twenty-four hours earlier.

While most of the Belchertown have played many baseball games at Mini Fenway, which is one of the best baseball fields in the entire state, it was a very special experience for the Agawam players.

“We don’t have a baseball field in Agawam like this one,” Gallerani said. “My players have only played a couple of games at this field in the past and they really do enjoy playing here a lot. You feel like you’re actually playing a game at Fenway Park in Boston. It’s a fun place to play a baseball game.”

Agawam held a six run lead entering the top of the third inning, which forced Belchertown to try to play catch-up during their final four at-bats of the game.

Agawam, who lost the pregame coin toss and were the visiting team, took a 1-0

lead with one-out in the top of the first inning on a ground ball out by Catellotti scoring Ukrainets, who singled to right field leading off the frame. Ukrainets led the Agawam offensive attack with four base hits and a walk. He also scored four runs.

Agawam put five more runs on the electronic scoreboard, which is located above the center field fence, in the second inning. Four of the runs crossed the plate following RBI singles by Ukrainets, Pisano, Catellotti and Montagna. Their other run scored on a sacrifice fly to center by Lavelle.

Trailing 6-0, Belchertown sliced their deficit in half in the bottom of the third. The first run scored on a ground ball single up the middle into by Vachet, who also crossed the plate following a wild pitch. Their other run scored on a bases loaded walk by Waller.

Agawam increased their lead to 10-3 by scoring four runs in the top of the fourth inning.

Belchertown responded by scoring three runs in the bottom half of the frame.

Agawam’s largest lead of the championship game was 14-6 in the top of the fifth inning.

Belchertown scored their final two runs in the fifth and Agawam got those runs right back in the top of the sixth inning.

Ukrainets managed to retire the side in order in the bottom of the sixth on three ground ball outs. It was only the second time that either team had recorded three consecutive outs in an inning.

After the final out of the game had been recorded, the Agawam players celebrated their championship victory by taking a team picture in front of the Green Monster in left field.

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue’s relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Agawam Advertiser News, please email mballway@turley.com.

Sports

JUNIORS ■ from page 1

on Sunday, July 9, losing 7-3 against Ludlow. Agawam would finish the regular season with a 6-10 record. Coach Ron Wieners said his team struggled to keep up with the competition because of injuries and vacation time with the players on his roster. The playoffs were scheduled to begin later this week. All team make the playoffs.

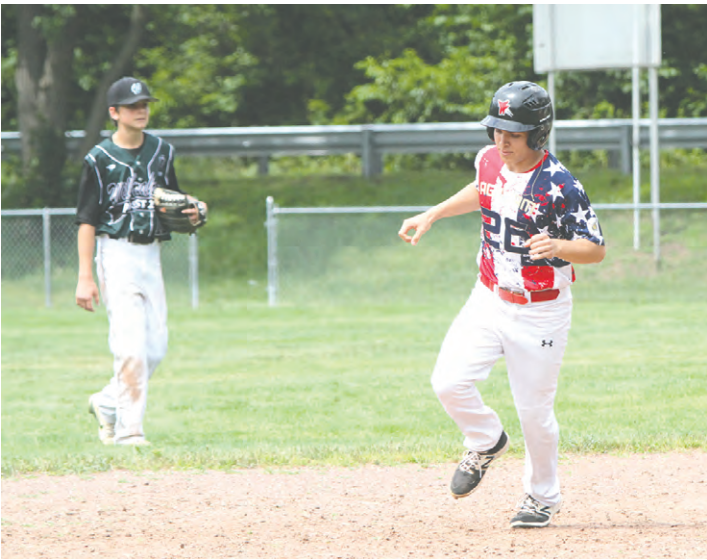


Above: Ryan Laudato makes a clean play at second and throws to first for an out. PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

RIGHT: Matt Hotaling scampers back to second base on a pickoff attempt.



Pitcher John Carmel pitches for Post 185.



Dan O'Connel rounds the bases after hitting a home run.

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Legals

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF AGAWAM
PLANNING BOARD
The Agawam Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, July 20, 2017 at 6:30 PM** at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of Atlantic Design Engineers, Inc. for a zone change request on 311 Shoemaker Lane (Parcels 1 & 2) from Agricultural and Residence A-3 to Industrial B. Copies of the proposed zone change can be obtained from the Agawam Planning Office between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM in the Agawam Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA.
BY ORDER OF:
Mark R. Paleologopoulos
Chairman
Agawam Planning Board
07/06, 07/13/17

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street

Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD17C0135CA
In the matter of:
Katina Anne Frogameni
Of: Agawam, MA
NOTICE OF PETITION
FOR CHANGE OF NAME
To all persons interested in petition described:
A petition has been presented by **Katina A Frogameni** requesting that: **Katina Anne Frogameni** be allowed to change his/her name as follows:
Katina Anne Pappas
If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said Court at: Springfield on or before ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 a.m.) on: **08/02/2017**
WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 5, 2017
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
07/13/17

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and

Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD17P1271EA
Estate of: Christian Michael Quatrone
Date of Death: 06/12/2017
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by: **Glen Quatrone** of Agawam, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: **Glen Quatrone** of Agawam, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Personal Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the

Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on 07/31/2017.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be

taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal

Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 03, 2017
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
07/13/17

HOW TO SUBMIT LEGAL NOTICES

All legal notices to be published in the *Agawam Advertiser News* should be sent directly to notices@turley.com. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Jamie Joslyn directly at 413-283-8393 x216.

Turley Publications, Inc. publishes 15 weekly newspapers throughout Western Massachusetts. Visit www.turley.com for more information.

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote free events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 413-786-8457, or mail to Turley Publications, 380 Union St., West Springfield, MA 01089. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Saturday, July 15

THE ALLEN BIRD CLUB annual potluck picnic at AMC Noble View Outdoor Center, 635 S. Quarter Road, Russell begins at noon. A walk through the trails begins at 11:30 a.m. For more information, visit www.allenbirdclub.org.

Thursday, July 20

A CLASS ON INFANT MASSAGE for infants to pre-walkers and their parents or caregivers at 11 a.m. at the Agawam Public Library with Sheryl White of Baby Kneads. Free and open to all. To register, call 413-789-1550, ext. 3 or visit www.agawamlibrary.org.

Saturday, July 29

THE NEW ENGLAND FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL at the Big E fairgrounds, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield today from noon to 9 p.m., tomorrow from noon to 6 p.m. Admission is \$5; under 6, free. For times,

Wednesday, Aug. 9

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper at a cost of \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. The public is welcome.

Friday, Aug. 11

THE EAST COAST GEM, MINERAL & FOSSIL SHOW today and tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Better Living Center on the grounds

of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. \$8 admission; free for children under 13 accompanied by an adult; parking, \$5 per day.

ONGOING

OPEN HOUSE TOURS at the Storowton Village Museum on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield Tuesdays through Saturdays from June 20 to Aug. 25. Adults, \$7; children under 6, free.

THE SUFFIELD FARMERS MARKET is held, rain or shine, on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon on the south Town Green in the center of town now through Columbus Day weekend. Most participating farms participate in the WIC program and some vendors are now SNAP certified. For more information, visit www.suffieldfarmersmarket.com or contact Ellie Binns at 860-668-2781 or 860-668-3848.

ADULT DROP-IN SIT & KNIT meets at the Agawam Public Library at 750 Cooper St. Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m. Bring your sticks and join other knitters for creative time. No registration is required.

GRANDPARENT'S PLAYGROUP Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., at St. David's Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. This free infant and toddler playgroup features music and movement, fostering children's interactions and sharing skills. Open to all grandparents and their grandchildren. Follows school schedule.

MOM 2 MOM takes place the second Tuesday of every month October through June, 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St. A round-table discussion hosted by a local "veteran" mom, this is a great way to have further conversation on recent café themes and parent education events, celebrate parenting and receive encouragement for the trials.

THE WESTFIELD WOMAN'S CLUB's clubhouse is available for rentals for wedding receptions, bridal showers, baby showers, graduation celebrations, and birthday and anniversary parties by the hour or the day. For more

information, call Lilian at 413-568-2916.

THE AGAWAM ST. PATRICK COMMITTEE meets the third Wednesday of each month, September through June, at 6:30 p.m. in the lower level classroom at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main St., Agawam. For information on how to join, call Vera Conway at 413-786-3247 or email Rosemary Sandlin at rosemarysandlin@gmail.com

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 459 Mill St., Agawam, offers "Crochet Club" the first and third Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. This club is open to all needle-workers, including crocheters, knitters, quilters, and embroiderers. For more information, call 413-786-7991.

A BREAST CANCER AND MASTECTOMY SUPPORT GROUP meets the fourth Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam.

Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

AN ALL CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the first Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Center, 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

A BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP meets the second Wednesday of each month at Heritage Woods Assisted Facility, 462 Main St., Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR CAMPER may be worth more as a donation than a trade-in. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind at 888-613-2777 for more information. Towing is free. All donations are tax deductible.

Agawam Senior Center

Lunch Menu

Monday, July 17: Teriyaki chicken, rice pilaf, vegetable blend, fresh plum.
Tuesday, July 18: Sloppy Joes on a roll, orzo and vegetable salad, pears.
Wednesday, July 19: Vegetable soup, grilled chicken Caesar salad, baked good.
Thursday, July 20: Meatloaf and gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, mixed fruit.
Friday, July 21: Salmon boat, dill sauce, roast potatoes, corn, pudding.

Calendar of Events

Monday, July 17: 8 a.m., weight training, 8:15 a.m., yoga; 9:30 a.m., line dancing; 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 1 p.m., writing group, Bingo; 2 to 4 p.m., monthly day dance with Richie Mitnick; 5:30 p.m., Zumba, three-week financial group meets tonight.

Tuesday, July 18: 9 a.m., summer exercise class; 9:30 a.m., shuffleboard at St. John's Field; 10 a.m., chair exercise; noon, ladies only billiards; 12:30 p.m., movie ("The Sunshine Boys"), mah jongg; 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 4:30 p.m., yoga; 6 p.m., beginner line dance.
Wednesday, July 19: 8 a.m., weight training; 8:15 a.m., yoga; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 10 to 11 a.m., Home Helpers in for walker tune-up program; 12:30 p.m., bridge; 1 p.m., ballroom lessons, Scrabble; 1:30 p.m., Golden Agers Chapter 2 meeting; 5:30 p.m., Zumba Gold.
Thursday, July 20: 9 a.m., summer exercise class; 9:30 a.m., quilting; 10 a.m., line dancing; 10:30 a.m., Reiki available (\$10); 12:30 p.m., bridge; 1 p.m., pitch; 2 p.m., Melody Band practice; 6:30 p.m., pitch.
Friday, July 21: 8 a.m., yoga; 9:15 a.m., Let's Paint; noon, canasta; 1 p.m., pitch, cribbage; 6:30 p.m., line dance class.

Our Town



Kate Gourde, owner of Cooper's Gifts Apparel Home, with prizes available when customers donate items to support troops through the Pioneer Valley USO. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Cooper's raffle, sales support USO this month

Cooper's Gifts, Apparel, Home has announced that its fundraiser to support the Pioneer Valley USO will take place throughout the month of July at the Main Street store.

Kate Gourde, owner of Cooper's, has worked with many of the shop's vendors to put together a table of raffle items, including items from Vera Bradley, Scout bags, Corkcicle, Simply Noelle and more. Customers who donate a personal care item for the USO, including shampoo, toothpaste, soap, or any other hygiene item, will receive one raffle ticket per item. A complete list of items requested by the USO may be found on the Tips page at www.coopers-gifts.com. Tickets may also be purchased for \$1 each or six for \$5. All proceeds will benefit the USO.

"We're lucky to have great working relationships with so many generous suppliers," Gourde said. "We're able to offer some amazing prizes to customers who would like to support our troops."

All of the proceeds from the store's Round Up program will also benefit the Pioneer Valley USO. The event will run through July 31.

Each month, Gourde chooses a local charity to receive Round Up profits. Customers are invited to round up their purchase total to the next dollar amount. Gourde then matches 50 percent of the total collected. The program has raised over \$7,000 for local organizations since its inception in 2014.

The Pioneer Valley USO serves the servicemembers of Westover Air Reserve Base and the surrounding military communities. All branches and components of the United States Armed Forces are welcome to contact the USO for support at info@pioneervalleyuso.org, or follow their Facebook.com page, Pioneer Valley USO.

Cooper's Gifts, Apparel, Home, 161 Main St., Agawam, is open seven days a week. It has been a local, family-owned shopping destination since 1973.

Chamber citation



At the West of the River Chamber of Commerce's June 15 annual breakfast, past Chairman Brian Houle, left, presented the volunteer of the year award to Chamber member Patricia Parker-Flores of the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative. Standing at right is Chamber Executive Director Robin Wozniak. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY

Zoito joins ICNE commercial dept.

Jason Zoito has joined Agawam-based Insurance Center of New England in its commercial lines department team. Zoito brings 15 years of insurance sales experience to ICNE as commercial lines producer. He is a designated commercial lines coverage specialist and graduate of the Hartford School of Insurance.



Jason Zoito

"I am excited to be a part of the ICNE team and creating lasting relationships with businesses in the greater Agawam area," said Zoito. "I look

forward to helping business owners by providing recommendations to safeguard their business."

While Zoito has worked with businesses in all types of industries, he is specialized in mitigating the risks associated with contractors, manufacturers and those in the social service industry. Insurance Center of New England, is one of the largest, privately owned, independent insurance agencies in the region and may be contacted at icne.com or 800-243-8134.

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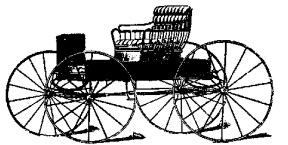
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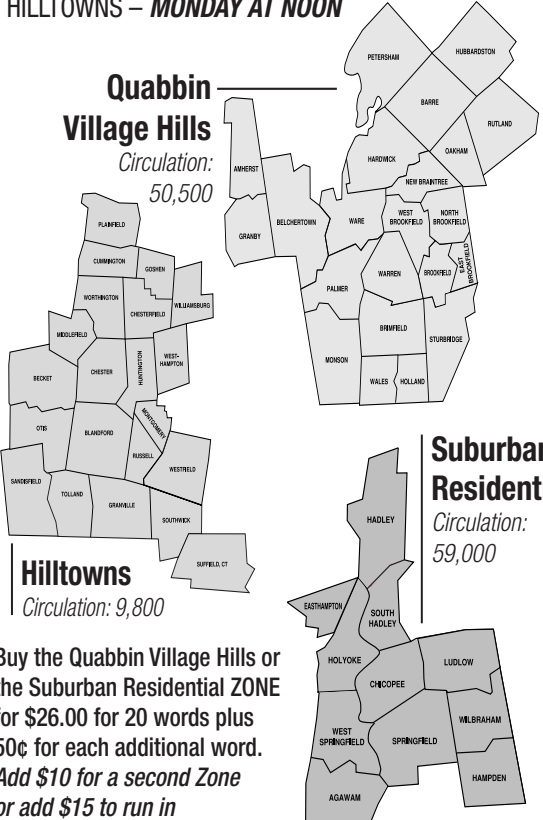
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NORTHAMPTON

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RAIN GUTTER SPECIALIST looking for gutter installers. Willing to train but must be able to work off ladders and have carpenter skills. Driver's license required. Call **413-283-2088.**

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REAL ESTATE


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FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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Berry, berry good



Among the many volunteers that helped to make the recent strawberry supper at Agawam Congregational Church a big success were, from left, Caroline Bassett, Betsy McMullin and Bob McMullin.



Agawam Congregational Church held a successful annual strawberry supper Saturday, June 17. Two sittings were available in order to accommodate all ticket-holders. It was a sold-out event thanks to those that attended, as well as the many volunteers. Three of those volunteers getting the strawberries ready include, left to right, P.J. Owen, Nancy Maxim and Rosemary Dawson. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Her vitality is important to me.

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Sacred Heart rosary prayer program starts next week

A new program, "Hail Mary, Holy Bible," will be held in the Sacred Heart Parish Center, 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, for five consecutive Tuesdays, July 18 through Aug. 15. Those interested may register for the 10 a.m. to noon session or the one offered from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The cost for materials is \$18.

All are welcome, whether new to praying the rosary or those who have been doing so for years. To register, call Julie Prats or Deb Briancesco, pastoral ministers, at 413-786-8200, ext. 3.

Sign up now for golf tourney to benefit cats, dogs in need

The Scramble for Animals Golf Tournament will take place at Oak Ridge Country Club in Feeding Hills on Sunday, Aug. 6.

Registration is at 11:30 a.m., with a shotgun start at noon. The \$100 fee covers golf, cart, lunch, dinner and prizes. Dinner only is available for \$25, and hole sponsorships are \$50. All proceeds benefit the Westfield Homeless Cat Project and Open Arms Rescue, which serves cats and dogs in the Westfield area. Registration deadline is July 15.

For more information, contact Marie Boccasile at 413-564-0589 or marieboccasile@gmail.com.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.